

His manners are said to be much changed since his first arrival at his present dignity; he was then haughty and imperious, he is now friendly and affable, a great favourite of Mr. Hunter's and all Europeans frequenting the port. In the evening Coon-sit, the son of the Praklang, who is intimate with Mr. Hunter, and whom he meets on terms of perfect equality, came in for an hour to our residence; he is a modest and unassuming man, of considerable intelligence; he writes English pretty well, understands nearly all that is said to him, and speaks a little. He has considerable mechanical talent, and has just finished a ship on an English model of about 400 or 500 tons; he is by some said to be an eaves-dropper, and to take advantage of his intimacy with Mr. Hunter to listen to and report to his father any inadvertent remark made by Europeans.

Memoranda respecting the existence of Copper in the territory of Luz, near Bela. By Captain DE LA HOSTE, Assistant Quarter Master General, S. R. F.

[Communicated to the Society from the Political Department, Government of India.]

During the absence on sick leave from the Sinde Reserve Force, Captain George Boyd, of the second Grenadiers, performed my duties, and having heard that antimony was procurable near a place called Shah Bellawl, he sent one of the guides to survey the road to that village, and make inquiries on the subject of antimony being found there.

On the return of the guide (second guide Esso Rama) he brought with him specimens of *lead* as well as of antimony, both of which were sent by Captain Boyd to Dr. Hedde, Assay Master in the Mint, Bombay. Having shortly after arrived and assumed charge of my appointment, it became my duty to extract the route from the guide's field book, when on questioning him respecting the place to which he had been (Hoja Samote) I found he had been informed, that in former days copper, silver, and gold had been found in the mountains near that village. Considering the report worthy of being inquired into, I sent for the brother of Navillull, named Sukkaramdass, and asked him if he had ever heard any thing of the report; he informed me that he had, and that a banian of Kurrachee

had been near the town of Bela, and brought away specimens of copper ore, which he melted and sold at Kurrachee, making a considerable profit; but that the Jam of Bela had heard of, and prohibited his returning, having punished those who gave him the ore. I requested Sukkaramdass to bring the man to me, or his son, if the man himself was dead, as I feared he was. On the 4th December Sukkaramdass brought the son of the man who had been to Bela, and his statement is as follows.

Twenty years ago, the informant, a banian named Kattoo, and his father Phuth, having dealings at Sonmianee, were informed that tamba (copper) was procurable from a mountain near Bela, they accordingly went to within four coss of the mountain, and got about three maunds of ore from some Beloches and Baboonies there; they melted this, and it yielded nearly half a maund of excellent copper; they took a very small specimen of this, and went to the brother of the Jam of Bela (Kesser Khan) and offered to work the ore under his protection; he at first seemed inclined to listen to the proposal, but an old man, named Neroo, of Shikarpore, said, that if he agreed or caused his brother Ali to agree, he would lose the country; on which both Kesser Khan and the Jam Ali desired the informant and his father to go; and told them if ever they again came there, they would be buried alive. They left Bela, and brought with them the copper they had concealed, which they sold at Kurrachee, making a good profit. The following questions were put by me to the banian.

Question. How did you go to Bela?

Answer. By Sonmianee.

Q. Is there any other road to it?

A. Yes, by Shah Billawl, and the Kunnaraj river.

Q. How far is the Kunnaraj river from the place where copper is found?

A. I believe about 20 coss, but do not really know, never having been that road.

Q. Where did you get the ore (muttee or phatur) from which you extracted the copper?

A. From a hill 12 coss south-east of Bela; some Beloches brought it to us.

Q. Do the people work the ore ?

A. No ; they are ignorant Mahomedans, and think of nothing but their cattle and thieving.

Q. Is it known to many that the ore exists ?

A. I do not know ; but believe it is ; the Jam is aware of it, and some of his people.

Q. Of what description was the copper you brought ?

A. Of the best, equal to that sold in the bazar, which is sheet copper, and comes from Velété (Europe).

Q. What average does the ore yield ?

A. Some will yield $\frac{1}{2}$, others $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$, but the average is a little less than $\frac{1}{2}$.

Q. How did you extract it ?

A. We simply melted it with wood in a mud furnace, and the copper ran off like a stream of gold.

Q. At what cost ?

A. At that of the firewood, which is mere nothing.

Q. What is the value of copper here (Kurrachee) ?

A. Sixty rupees for 80 lbs. the best.

Q. Do you know the value of 80 lbs. of copper in Bombay ?

A. I believe, about 42 rupees.

Q. Where is it brought from ?

A. It is sheet copper, brought from Velété (Europe.)

Q. What would be the cost of bringing 60 lbs. of copper from the place you had the specimen you speak of ?

A. I could, I think, bring 60 lbs. of copper to Kurrachee, and sell it with profit for 30, or 28 rupees less if worked on the spot.

Q. Are any other metals found where the copper is procured ?

A. I cannot say ; we searched by stealth, and were afraid of being discovered ; but it is said that silver is found in these mountains.

Q. Did you ever hear of a black substance like charcoal, which burns well, being found ?

A. No, I never did ; but I have told you, how much afraid of being found out we were.

Q. Could you shew me the hill from which you got the copper ?

A. Certainly, I saw it plainly, and could point it out to you.

Q. Is there much of the ore ?

A. Yes, it is a mountain, and you could get any quantity.

Q. Are lead and antimony found there, (Shisa ? Soorma ?)

A. Yes, in abundance, the latter is exported.

From the foregoing information, it appears to me, that no doubt can exist respecting the existence of copper in the vicinity of the Kunnaraj river, and Bela.

Firstly, Because the guide heard such a report at the spot from the people of the place.

Secondly, Because it was known to the native Sukkaramdass.

Thirdly, Because I have conversed with a person who declares he has been there, and because it is well known to more than one person, that he had procured copper and sold it at Kurrachee.

This statement is clear and distinct, and I think at least worthy of notice and inquiry, if not of implicit belief.

P.S. I have been promised specimens of the ore, and that it shall be melted in my presence ; when brought it is my intention to weigh the ore, and ascertain what proportion of copper it yields.

*Memoir on the Climate, Soil, Produce, and Husbandry of Afghanistan and the neighbouring Countries.—By Lieut. IRWIN.*¹

PART IV.

Husbandry and Cultivation.

165. It was originally my intention to have attempted a treatise of considerable length on this subject, in which would have been mentioned all the cultivated products, as far as ascertained, of all the districts. To this would have been added an account of the operations of agriculture in some of the most interesting and best known of them, with some details of the life of the poor. Various reasons now withhold me from this attempt, and among them the chief is the want of time to execute it with

¹ Continued from p. 1015. vol. VIII.